Burundi Crisis
Regional Impact

Highlights
Food stocks are stretched and WFP requires immediate contributions to meet the needs of vulnerable people in Burundi as well as new arrivals and existing refugees in the four countries. In Burundi, the number of feeding days for the 100,000 conflict affected beneficiaries have been reduced in the September food distributions and planned nutrition interventions have been delayed because of resource constraints.

Overview
The overall situation remains unpredictable in Burundi. Security incidents continue to be reported in Bujumbura and elsewhere in the country. Reports indicate that there has been an upsurge in arrests, detentions and killings in Burundi since the beginning of September.
Refugees continue crossing borders into neighbouring countries. As at 29 September, more than 191,000 people had fled the country into the DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Burundi
Burundi depends heavily on external support, which accounts for about half of the country’s national budget. Foreign aid flows have been significantly scaled back or suspended, as a result of the political impasse and reports of alleged human rights violations. This coupled with declining tax revenues and a poor performing currency, is likely to cause further deterioration of living conditions for most Burundians and increase humanitarian needs.

According to FEWSNET, food security remains Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in areas where ongoing civil unrest and insecurity disrupted agricultural activities, reducing harvests and labor opportunities for poor households. Kirundo, Makamba, and Bujumbura Mairie provinces are particularly affected. The September to December main lean season is expected to be more severe than normal in these areas. Ongoing insecurity will likely disrupt Season A planting, which typically begins in October.

WFP has scaled up food assistance to 100,000 vulnerable people affected by the ongoing crisis in Bujumbura Mairie, Kirundo and Makamba Provinces. The September food distributions are underway. This is in addition to WFP’s ongoing food assistance support to already food insecure populations.

The operation is facing critical resource shortfalls. As a result, in order to stretch available resources, WFP has reduced the number of feeding days from 30 days to 15 days in the September food distributions for vulnerable households affected by the ongoing crisis. In addition, planned nutrition activities in Kirundo and Makamba provinces have not started because of the resource shortfalls. The operation also supports refugees from the DRC, but so far resourcing constraints have not affected food assistance for refugees.
Regional Update

Democratic Republic of Congo. As of 22 September, more than 14,000 refugees from Burundi had crossed the border into the DRC. Infrastructure development is ongoing at the Katungulu 1 site, which will accommodate newly arrived refugees.

WFP is working closely with UNHCR, World Vision, Caritas and African Initiative for Relief and Development to provide high energy biscuits to new arrivals at border crossings and transit centres and monthly general rations to households hosting new arrivals and those settled in the camp. In addition, WFP through partners is providing specialized nutritional products for treatment of acute malnutrition for children below 5 years, pregnant and breastfeeding women.

The “most likely” scenario in the revised Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan projects the arrival of 30,000 refugees into the DRC until the end of 2015.

Rwanda. As of 29 September, more than 69,000 refugees had arrived in Rwanda. The majority of the refugees are located at the Nyanza, Bugesera and Nyagatare reception centres and at the Mahama camp, while the rest are in Kigali and other urban towns.

So far, WFP has provided food assistance to about 50,000 refugees at the border entry points, reception and transit centres and at the camp. WFP continues to support nutrition interventions aimed at treating and preventing malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and breastfeeding women.

The “most likely” scenario in the revised Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan projects the arrival of 120,000 refugees into Rwanda until the end of 2015.

Tanzania. As of 18 September, nearly 94,000 people from Burundi had arrived in Tanzania. Given that Nyarugusu camp has reached its capacity, the Government has allocated three additional refugee camps, Nduta, Mtendeli and Karago to accommodate the influx of Burundian refugees. Relocation of refugees to Nduta and Mtendeli camps is expected to start in October, ahead of the rainy season. Priority will be given to refugees living in mass shelters and in flood prone areas. Relocation to Karago camp will begin in 2016.

WFP continues to provide food assistance to newly arrived refugees at border entry points, transit and reception centres and those settled in camps, with a particular focus on the nutritional status of children, pregnant and breastfeeding women. WFP provides specialized nutrition products for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition among children below 5 years, pregnant and breastfeeding women and for prevention of acute malnutrition among children aged 6-23 months.

The “most likely” scenario in the revised Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan projects the arrivals of 150,000 refugees into Tanzania until the end of 2015.

Uganda. As of 22 September, more than 14,000 Burundi refugees had arrived in Uganda. The period 18-24 September saw a slight increase in the number of new arrivals crossing into Uganda compared to previous weeks. The new arrivals cite insecurity in Burundi as the reason for fleeing.

WFP is working closely with UNHCR and the American Refugee Committee (ARC) to provide hot meals at the Kabazana reception centres and monthly dry rations to those who have been settled. In addition to food assistance provided to new arrivals at the reception centres and in the settlements, WFP in partnership with UNHCR and Medical Teams International is providing nutritional products for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for children below 5 years.

The “most likely” scenario in the revised Burundi Regional Response Plan projects the arrival of 20,000 refugees into Uganda until the end of 2015.

Contacts

Burundi, Rwanda & Uganda

Jesse Wood,
Regional Donor Relations Officer
Regional Bureau Nairobi
email: jesse.wood@wfp.org

Challiss McDonough,
Senior Regional Communications Officer
Regional Bureau Nairobi
email: challiss.mcdonough@wfp.org

DRC & Tanzania

Maud Biton,
Regional Donor Relations Officer
Regional Bureau Johannesburg
email: maud.bitong@wfp.org

David Orr,
Regional Communications Officer
Regional Bureau Johannesburg
email: david.orr@wfp.org